

Pancreatic Cancer Surgery

The incidence of pancreatic cancer is increasing, currently the fourth leading cause of death from cancer. It is more common in men over 50 years of age and slightly more common in African American and Jewish people. The cause of cancer of the pancreas remains unknown. However, cigarette smoking (10 to 15 per day) is now firmly established as a significant risk factor in the development of cancer of the pancreas.

The most effective treatment of cancer of the pancreas is surgery. Pancreatic cancer surgery, pancreatic resection, and Whipple's procedure are all surgeries to remove cancer from the pancreas. The most common surgery is Whipple's procedure which involves surgery on portions of the pancreas and stomach, the duodenum, gallbladder, and common bile duct. The pancreatic duct is then connected to the jejunum (an area of the small intestines).

A total pancreatectomy may be required for curing cancer that involves the head of the pancreas. The entire pancreas and the spleen are removed along with regional lymph nodes.

Today it is recognized that the pancreas and its adjacent organs can be removed. However, this is a complicated procedure that produces lifelong side effects involving the endocrine system and can result in significant postoperative complications. Therefore, pancreatic resection is limited to life-threatening conditions such as cancer or severe trauma.

Research suggests that hospitals that perform 5 or more pancreatic cancer surgeries per year have better outcomes than hospitals and surgeons that perform fewer than 5 cases per year.

Procedure-Specific Questions

- ◆ Are there any other options besides surgery to treat my pancreatic cancer?
- ◆ Which type of pancreatic cancer surgery will I need?
- ◆ What are the complications that can occur with pancreatic cancer surgery?
- ◆ What are the long-term complications?
- ◆ Will I need any other treatments, such as radiation or chemotherapy, when my surgery is completed?
- ◆ Will all of my cancer be gone after surgery?
- ◆ How long can I wait before the surgery needs to be done?

(See page 3 for other questions)

Region	Average Annual Volume
Subregion	
Hospital	
Central / Northeastern Region	
Columbia	
Boone Hospital Center	1
University Hospitals and Clinics	6
Jefferson City	
St. Mary's Health Center	1
Kansas City / Western Region	
Eastern Jackson County	
Independence Regional Health Center	2
Medical Center of Independence	1
Kansas City (Jackson County)	
Baptist Medical Center	2
Research Medical Center	4
Saint Joseph Health Center	2
Saint Luke's Hospital	8
Truman Medical Center-Hospital Hill	2
Rest of Area	
Heartland Regional Medical Center	4
Research Belton Hospital	1
Southeastern Region	
Cape Girardeau	
Southeast Missouri Hospital	1
Southwestern Region	
Joplin	
Freeman Health System	2
St. John's Regional Medical Center	3
Springfield	
Lester E. Cox Medical Centers South	4
St. John's Regional Health Center	1
St Louis / Eastern Region	
St. Louis City / County	
Barnes-Jewish Hospital	51
Christian Hospital Northeast-Northwest	3
Depaul Health Center	1
Missouri Baptist Medical Center	3
Saint Louis University Hospital	9
SSM St. Joseph Hospital of Kirkwood	1
SSM St. Mary's Health Center	2
St. Anthony's Medical Center	2
St. John's Mercy Medical Center	3
St. Luke's Hospital	4
Rest of Area	
Jefferson Memorial Hospital	1

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